

Amendments to the Specification:

At page 5, lines 12-18:

Bar code recognition normally completes execution sooner than OCR recognition. The results of this process are provided as a first destination code 27 to the machine control module 24, operable from a user terminal 23, which determines the destination sort location for the item represented by the image. This result is buffered to await the OCR process resolution, or an interrupt from the sort decision second photocell 18 that informs machine control 24 that a decision must be provided. Occasionally, the result from the bar code decision process 21 is that there is no valid result and subsequent sort decision.

At page 5, line 29 to page 6 line 6:

When the OCR decision data are received from the OCR process as a second destination code 28, the data are compared with the bar code decision data for the same mail piece. An arbitration process 25 determines which result to use and provides that output to machine control. Machine control 24 can also provide a result to OCR process 22 to inform it that a successful bar code result has been received. Depending upon the system resources then available, the OCR module 22 can terminate processing on the appropriate image, or continue to completion. If resources for processing a subsequent image are marginal or low, this feature enables stopping processing on one image to reallocate resources (memory or machine cycles) to work on a subsequent one.

At page 6, lines 7-15:

In some systems, such as DIOSS machines, the machine is also provided with an bar code ID tag or RFID tag reader 26. These devices permit the machine to read ID codes off of a mail piece previously determined to be unreadable in a postal sorting process. The mail piece was ID tagged and diverted for human review (video coding) so that a valid address and destination code could be determined. When such a tag is detected, control module 24 receives a third destination code 29 and consults an external database wherein the results of video coding are correlated with ID codes. The destination ZIP code to be used for sorting or other processing is then the one matching the ID tag, which would override any result determined by OCR or bar code processes 21, 22.